

City of Cincinnati



Date: February 5, 2003

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Valerie A. Lemmie, City Manager
Copies to: David J. Krings, County Administrator

Subject: **CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION: PROGRESS REPORT #4**

This is the latest progress report on the Convention Center expansion and renovation. This report is also forwarded to Mr. Krings in order to keep the County informed of the project's progress.

1. WCPO Relocation

- A. An ordinance approving an Enterprise Zone Agreement for the new WCPO property was passed by City Council on January 29, 2003.
- B. WCPO TV has demolished the former Museum of Natural History on Gilbert Avenue in preparation for the commencement of construction of their new facility this month.

2. Project Management

- A. The Design Development phase of the project commenced on January 17, 2003. Design Development is scheduled to be completed by July 2003.
- B. Attached is an organization chart of the entire Convention Center Renovation and Expansion Project Team.
- C. City staff have been discussing a proposed agreement with Cinergy for a chilled water substation within the Convention Center. The Administration will submit an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into such an agreement at such time mutually agreeable terms have been reached between Cinergy and the City.
- D. A lease has been signed with the Union Baptist Church Pioneer Housing Inc. for the project office to be located on the ground floor of the Page Towers at 619 Central Avenue. The project office will house the staff of the Program Manager, Construction Manager, Architect/Engineer and the City's Project Manager commencing in May 2003 through the duration of the project

3. Corporate Contributions

The Cincinnati Business Committee is in the process of collecting the private contributions. The project will be receiving the funds over the life of the design/construction period (2002-2006). At this time, contributions of \$1.22 million have been received from nine companies.

4. Equity Fund Loan

The language in the letter of intent with the Equity Fund has been finalized. The CFA will need to approve the letter of intent. Money from the Equity Fund will be drawn down later in the process, probably beginning in 2005.

5. Naming Rights

The City has retained legal counsel, Bricker & Eckler LLP, to assist with the contract development. The Administration will be bringing an ordinance forward authorizing the City Manager to enter into such an agreement when the terms have been finalized.

6. GCCVB Commitment

Meetings are being held with relevant staff to ensure that the GCCVB will be able to meet their commitment of \$1 million a year for 10 years.

7. Center Operation and Contracts

The Administration is in the process of reviewing performance measures for the Convention Center and the GCCVB.

8. Public Information

The communications team is comprised of ALJ Strategic Communications, Cossentino Design and Dan Pinger Public Relations. The communications team is developing a strategic plan for the public information campaign, which will be reviewed by the City and the GCCVB.

9. Commitment from the State

The City project team is in the process of working with the City, County, Chamber of Commerce, and the CBC to secure a signed Letter of Understanding between these entities confirming that requesting funds from the State for the Convention Center will be the highest priority in the State Capital Budget for the 2005-2006 biennium.

10. SBE Commitment

An SBE/MBE/WBE outreach program sponsored jointly by the Greater Cincinnati Women's Chamber of Commerce and the City was held at the Convention Center on January 22, 2003. The program was attended by approximately 100 persons despite the inclement weather. Further outreach programs are being planned for later this year.

11. Convention Facility Authority

- A. The City and the County are working to plan two orientation sessions for new CFA board members to be held on February 14th. The CFA's first organizational meeting for the election of officers and other business matters is also in the process of being scheduled.
- B. City and County staff are working to develop appropriate agreements, contracts, leases, financing plans for the CFA to implement all of the items in the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County.

12. Items to be Presented to City Council

- A. Ordinance to enter into an agreement with Cinergy for the operation of a chilled water substation (early 2003)
- B. Ordinance to accept Naming Rights contribution (early 2003)
- C. Ordinance to adopt Letter of Understanding for State Commitment (early 2003)
- D. Ordinance for WCPO TV Zoning Change (approved)
- E. Ordinance for Release of Deed Restriction for WCPO TV property (approved)
- F. Ordinance to grant a Construction and Permanent Easement to Scripps Howard (approved)
- G. Ordinance for Enterprise Zone Agreement (approved)

THR:lyr

